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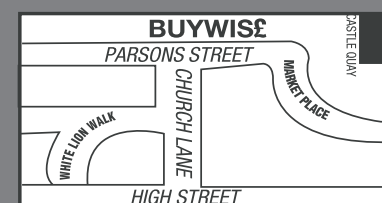


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Wife tells of hospital heroes - See Page 4



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Labour group leader Sean Woodcock

WARDS SET FOR A SHAKE-UP

BOUNDARY chiefs have "intervened" at Cherwell District Council and launched a review that will consider cutting councillors.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has demanded a review of boundaries.

It said there was too big a gap in the number of electors in each ward and pledged to review the number of councillors, who all get at least £4,155 a year.

In the last two years, this has seen reductions at county authorities, including a fall from 74 to 63 at Oxfordshire County Council.

The commission said the review was needed so everyone's vote was worth the same - but there were fears

By Oliver Evans

fewer councillors could damage democratic representation.

The commission said the council met its "intervention criteria for levels of electoral inequality" when it did regular checks.

Some 50 councillors represent 28 wards on the Conservative-run authority, which worked out at about 2,144 electors per member.

But, in reality, there was a massive variation in how many people were represented by councillors in different wards.

For example, three councillors share 8,071 voters in Banbury Grimsbury and Castle, or 2,690 each.

Yet on the other end of the scale, three Bicester West councillors represent 5,641 people, or 1,880 each.

Commission spokesman Marcus Bowell said: "At present, some councillors represent many more, or many fewer, electors than their colleagues.

"The review aims to re-draw local ward boundaries to ensure that each district councillor represents a similar number of voters. This means that the value of your vote - in district council elections - is worth the same as your neighbours across the local authority and that there is equality of local representation for electors."

The commission orders reviews when more than 30 per cent above or below the average number of electors - in this case 2,144 for Cherwell.

The first stage will consider

the total number of councillors and will launch in January with a public consultation. Two further consultations will be held in response to the first results.

Yet it said: "The commission has no preconceptions about the outcome of an electoral review."

Labour group leader and Banbury Ruscote councillor Sean Woodcock backed the move to ensure councillors represented broadly the same number of people.

But he said of any attempt to cut councillor numbers: "The worry is you are potentially putting more work on the back of fewer councillors and making it less representative."

This could make local Government "even more distant to residents on the ground".

He added: "In the current economic climate, you can't rule out cutting the number of councillors."

Liberal Democrat group leader Tim Emptage said: "We need to make sure that wards are of a consistent size."

Wards that are too large means an "awful lot of work for one councillor".



Liberal Democrat group leader Tim Emptage

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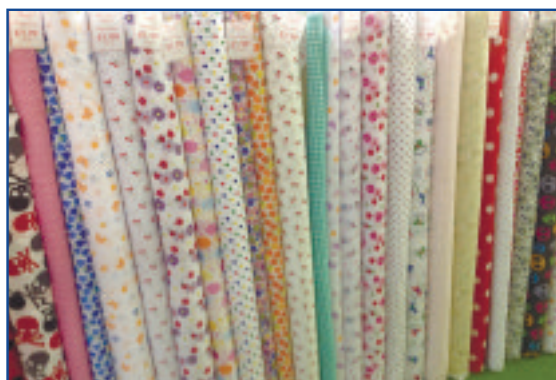
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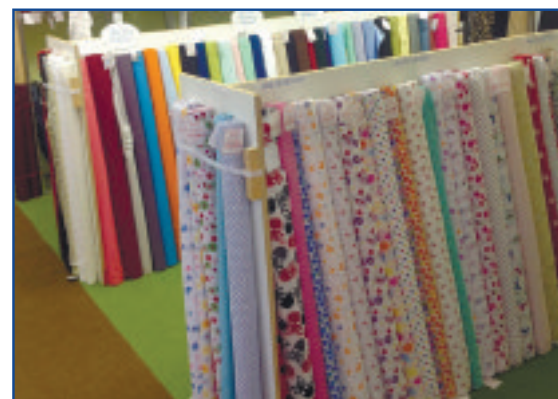
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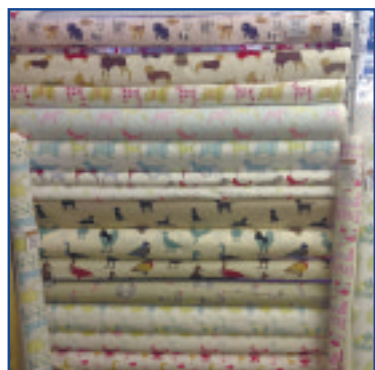
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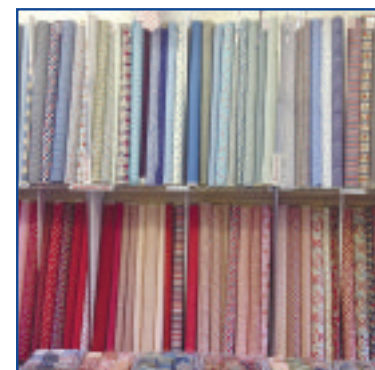
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Safety project earns award

A SAFETY project, between a school and the county's fire service, has won a top award.

The project between Queensway Primary School and Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service was about having the right booster seat in cars for children.

Pupils decorated a model of an Aston Martin, decorated by the town's motorsport firm Prodrive.

Youngsters also designed safety leaflets.

A panel of young judges handed out the innovation award at the Youth On Board

Awards, staged by the British Youth Councils.

Chief fire officer Dave Etheridge said:

"The whole aim of the project was to encourage young people to take some responsibility for their own safety in vehicles and to help educate their parents, carers and peers.

"The positive response and feedback that our staff received from the schools in the Banbury area that we visited with this campaign has been extremely encouraging."



InBRIEF

Man charged with robbery

■ A MAN accused of a knife-point robbery in Banbury has not yet entered a plea. Paul Williams, of Gatteridge Street, Banbury, has been charged with stealing cash during a raid on a Co-op in Banbury on April 18 this year. He has also been accused of possessing banned weapons, namely disposable cameras adapted as stun guns, as part of a separate charge. He appeared at Oxford Crown Court but another hearing will now take place on August 19. Williams remains on conditional bail.

Man attacked

■ A 38-year-old suffered cuts on his face after he was knocked to the ground and beaten around the head by three men. Nothing was stolen in the attack, which happened at about midnight on Wednesday, July 17, in an alley between Mold Crescent and Edmunds Road. Police said the attackers were all about 6ft tall, of medium build, and aged between 18 and 20.

Phones theft

■ MOBILE phones and garden tools were stolen from a vehicle in Tanners Lane, Banbury. The theft happened between 8.30pm on July 15 and 7.30am the next day.

Escaped prisoner used a 'legitimate passport'

FUGITIVE prisoner Ian McLean has a passport application signed by a doctor before he skipped abroad, it has been claimed.

McLean – given a life sentence in 2004 for a savage knife attack on former partner Michelle Storer – is still facing extradition back to the UK after being arrested in Poland, where he fled after leaving an unlocked mental health unit at Littlemore Hospital, Oxford, earlier this month.

McLean slipped out of the UK on the Eurostar, out of St

By Banbury reporter

Pancras, and went to Brussels, just hours after he escaped from the Oxford Health-run facility. From there, he is believed to have travelled to Berlin and then on to the Baltic seaside resort city of Kalibrzeg, in north-west Poland.

It is thought that he was travelling on a legitimate UK passport, issued in the name of an alias – Paul Mitchell.

McLean had originally been sentenced to life for wounding with intent, after attacking and

stabbing Miss Storer as she slept in her Banbury home. The attack was so severe that doctors could not count the wounds and the tip of the knife was bent.

Victim Miss Storer, who is furious he was in an unlocked unit and able to escape, said: "I was told that a doctor at Littlemore signed his passport application."

Asked about the passport application, an Oxford Health spokesman would only say: "A detailed investigation is under way examining the circumstances surrounding his

departure from the unit. This includes his use of travel documentation.

"It would be wrong to comment on specifics such as these while this investigation takes place, however, we are keen to address the concerns of Ms Storer and would be happy to meet her to discuss these."

A police spokesman said: "Our investigation suggested that he travelled on a passport in the name of Mitchell. It is believed to be a genuine document."

McLean, 44, was still a serving prisoner but was

transferred to Littlemore Hospital for treatment. He was assessed and eventually was allowed to be kept in an unlocked unit.

However, after he escaped he was deemed a threat to the public, who were told not to approach him.

Government guidance is that serving prisoners can apply for passports but "if we are aware that they are in prison, the passport should be sent to the governor of that prison for safe keeping until the prisoner is released".

Honour for MP Sir Tony

BANBURY MP Sir Tony Baldry has been recognised in a Parliamentary awards ceremony. He was the Runner Up

Conservative MP of the Year at the Patchwork Foundation's MP of the Year awards.

The foundation tries to engage deprived and minority communities with politics and the awards recognise those who excel with those communities.

Sir Tony said: "To have been named runner up has taken me by surprise, but really is quite special."

Sir Tony accepted his award in the State Rooms of the Commons home of Speaker John Bercow.



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InBRIEF**Collectors raise cash for charity**

■ **LAST** month's Armed Forces Day celebrations in Banbury town centre raised £1,937.73 through street collections.

The cash will go to armed forces charities Help for Heroes, SSAFA and the Royal British Legion.

The June 26 event included a parade by former and current armed forces personnel and stalls and attractions like a paintball range.

Police 'surgery'

■ **MEMBERS** of Thames Valley Police's Banbury Town division will be on hand to speak to residents today.

They will be in Market Place from 10am to noon.

Adult courses offer

■ **PEOPLE** in the county are being invited to sign up for adult learning courses.

If they sign up for a course by emailing marketing.network@oxfordshire.gov.uk by noon on Wednesday, July 31, they could win £50 off the cost of a course.

The winner of the discount will be selected at random and then notified by Friday, August 9.

The county council's course brochure is currently being delivered across Oxfordshire. For further information visit oxfordshire.gov.uk

Stolen pets tally

■ **MORE** than 500 dogs were stolen in the Thames Valley area from 2008 to 2012, police have revealed.

In a response to a Freedom of Information request, Thames Valley Police said 514 were taken and 200 recovered.

Some 64 cats were taken and seven recovered.

Force guidance says: "Dog theft has been attributed to two broad motives – breeding and ransom."

It urges owners to microchip their pets and put their details on an ID collar.

Report reveals county's abortion rate has risen 30 per cent

ABORTIONS in Oxfordshire have increased by 30 per cent since 2009, a new report has revealed.

The Department of Health said that the total number of abortions in the county in 2012 was 1,681,

compared to 1,293 in 2009. The highest number of abortions were performed on women in the 20-to-24 age band, totalling 470. The lowest was for women under the age of 18, numbering 133. It

comes after the latest Office for National Statistics report on conception rates revealed 152 girls under 16 became pregnant in 2011, and 62.5 per cent of those pregnancies resulted in abortion.

A spokesman for British Pregnancy Advisory Service said: "What matters is that every woman is able to make the choice that is right for her and access the care that she needs."

Grateful wife tells of her 'hospital heroes'

By Katriona Ormiston

AFTER dialling 999 last year, Alexandra Williams didn't know if her husband would survive.

But thanks to surgeons, anaesthetists, doctors, nurses, porters and an army of other

behind-the-scenes staff, he pulled through.

Nick Williams was rushed to the John Radcliffe Hospital

in Oxford on February 12 last year with an aortic dissection.

That meant the main artery

leaving the heart, the aorta, was coming adrift.

Without urgent surgery he would die. With surgery there was still a one-in-five chance he would die.

But more than a year after the risky operation, the 58-year-old father-of-two, is back to work as the owner of Holloway's auctioneers, Banbury.

For the skill and care of the hospital staff, 47-year-old Mrs Williams is nominating the Cardiothoracic Critical Care Unit team as her "Hospital Heroes" – new awards that were announced earlier this

month by the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

It gives Oxfordshire residents the chance to choose a staff member, or a team to thank them for their work.

Mrs Williams said: "The difficult thing now is picking a person or even a team, because it was everybody."

"From the very moment we arrived at the JR, we were looked after with the utmost care. It cannot be easy breaking serious news of this kind to a mother with two young teenagers."

"The dedication of the nurses was unbelievable. They gave Nick the care he needed and let me sit with him through most of the day.

"I was never turned away or told it wasn't a good time. It was very upsetting for our two daughters. But again the nursing staff were especially kind, reassuring them that it was OK to carry on living, to be angry, hurt and have whatever teenage moods hit them."

Now, the family from Thenford are settling back into normal life.

Mrs Williams added: "Nick gets a bit tired sometimes, but when you think about what he has gone through, that is a small price to pay."

"But I know I could never have got through that period without the incredible staff in that unit."

To nominate someone as a "Hospital Hero", write your name, address, date of birth, telephone number, and email address above the person or team you would like to nominate with a 250-word

paragraph on why you have nominated them. The deadline for nominations is September 30.

Send it to Hospital Heroes, Communications Office, Level 3, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Oxford OX3 9DU.

The awards winners will be announced as part of the Oxford University Hospitals' annual staff awards in November.

Alexandra and Nick Williams, who are nominating the Cardiothoracic Critical Care Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital as their 'Hospital Heroes'

OX60462



'I could never have got through without those incredible staff'

Crime victims are given more rights

VICTIMS of crime will be given the right to challenge decisions to stop prosecutions or not charge suspects.

The victims' right to review covers any decision by the Crown Prosecution Service not to pursue a case.

Previously, there was no automatic right of review and victims could only appeal against a decision by judicial review, an often costly and time-consuming process.

The chief crown prosecutor for Thames and Chiltern Crown Prosecution Service, Baljit Ubhey, said a consultation would last for three months, then the CPS would decide on any alterations.

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Reading champions

A GROUP of volunteers, who have devoted 125 years between them to help children with their reading, have been recognised for their achievements.

Volunteers, who have spent five, ten or 15 years giving up their time to read to children in Oxfordshire schools with the Assisted Reading for Children charity, were presented with long-service awards to mark their achievements.

Twelve people working across nine different schools were presented with the awards by the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire Tim Stevenson.

The event also marked the organisation's fifth anniversary celebrations. It was formed when the national organisation, Volunteer Reading Help, stopped working within the county. Many of the volunteers

By Fran Bardsley

were previously involved in its predecessor.

ARCh development manager Jane Rendle said: "Anything that encourages the importance of reading is a good thing.

"We are working in a lot of the schools where reading campaign is working and it is something we could follow, on, so if a child has been through the reading campaign in Year 2, they might want an ARCh volunteer for Year 3."

Jill Cheeseman, who has been a volunteer at St Leonard's Primary School, Banbury, since 2007, became involved after seeing an advertisement.

Mrs Cheeseman, 67, from Deddington, said: "I used to help in our local primaries when my children were small. I have always been enthusiastic

to help children with reading in particular, because it's such a vital skill."

Volunteers commit for at least a year, and read with three children in half-hour sessions twice a week.

Mrs Cheeseman said: "It's great fun and it keeps you very much in touch with the younger generation. And there is always something the children can teach you."

Other volunteers from Banbury, who earned awards included - Ten years: Lawrence Wyatt (William Morris, Banbury).

Ten Years: Helen Holmes (St Mary's, Banbury), Margaret Hobson (Sibford Gower).

Five years: Derek Johns (St Leonard's, Banbury).

The organisation is always looking for more volunteers. Details: info@archoxfordshire.org.uk or call 01869 320380.



**ARCh volunteer
Jill Cheeseman
OX60431**

Tools stolen

■ **POWER** tools were stolen from a property in West Bar Street, Banbury.

Burglars broke in through the rear door by smashing off the bolts between 1pm on Sunday, July 14, and 7.30am on Monday, July 15.

Call police on 101.

Riders take up offer of free bike-marking scheme

ALMOST 100 people took advantage of a free bicycle-marking scheme at Broughton Castle's cycling festival.

The Banbury Neighbourhood team issued 92 bikes with Bike Register stickers. These will also be listed on the Bike Register website.

It means that stolen bicycles can be easily identified and returned to their owner.

PC Daniel Hopkins, said: "The bike-marking service we offered, together with key crime prevention advice, has been very successful.

"We hoped to have raised awareness of the importance of adding security markings to bikes.

"Having a bike marked makes it so much easier for the police to identify it if it is stolen. It also speeds up the process of returning it to its owner."

Home raided

■ **CASH, perfume and jewellery** were stolen from a home in Windrush, Banbury.

Burglars climbed over a back gate and were able to open the patio doors between 2pm and 10pm on Tuesday, July 16.

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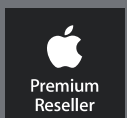
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Green group's 'acceptance' of shale-gas drilling Fracking incentive is rapped by MEP

OXFORDSHIRE'S Green Party MEP has slammed new tax breaks for fracking companies that have been announced by Chancellor George Osborne

But the fracking industry was given a surprise boost by an Oxfordshire environmental group, which said: "We cannot necessarily have green fields everywhere."

Brian Wood, chairman of the Campaign to Protect Rural England's Oxfordshire branch appeared to accept the tax breaks.

He said: "We have to accept that we have to run the country. We cannot necessarily have green fields everywhere."

Shale gas "pad" allowance will reduce the rate of tax for shale gas and oil production to 30 per cent, compared to 62 per cent for the rest of the oil and gas industry, it was announced last week.

Previously, it had been revealed that a 347sq m expanse across the north of the county had been identified as a possible source of shale gas by the British Geological Survey.

Next year the Government will launch its latest round of onshore licensing for shale gas exploration in the UK, including

By Matt Oliver

that area – covering Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.

Keith Taylor MEP, who has been campaigning against shale gas extraction, said: "These tax breaks, for companies wanting to carve up the Oxfordshire countryside, fly in the face of reason."

"Residents across Oxfordshire will no doubt be deeply concerned about these new incentives being given out to fracking companies."

"Rather than locking us into a future of fossil fuel dependence, the Government should be doubling its efforts to support renewable, clean and safe energy from the sun, wind and sea."

The Government said that the tax breaks would help create "a fertile ground for shale to prosper" and provide support to the industry in what it called the "critical" exploration phase.

The United Kingdom Onshore Operators Group, which represents UK onshore oil and gas companies, has offered £100,000 to local companies for each exploratory well that is drilled, and a one per cent cut

of revenues during the production stage.

But opponents of drilling for shale gas warn it could be dangerous and environmentally damaging.

In the United States, where the discovery of huge reserves of shale gas are said to be transforming the economy, there are claims that water reserves were polluted in the wake of "fracking" operations.

"Fracking" is a method of shale-gas extraction that involves drilling deep into the ground and pumping water, sand and chemicals into rock to fracture it, and so release reserves of gas and oil.

Director of Oxford University's Natural Gas Production research, Howard Rogers, said in his recent paper entitled "UK Shale Gas – Hype, Reality and Difficult Questions" that the future debate around fracking was likely to centre on economic benefits versus visual impact on the environment.

Speaking to members of the shale gas industry, Minster for Energy Michael Fallon responded to environmental concerns and said that the UK development of shale gas would be "significantly different to the United States."



MEP Keith Taylor standing next to a fracking rig

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New lease of life bicycles scheme wins a national award

AN Oxfordshire County Council-run bicycle recycling scheme has won a national award.

The Innovation Award was presented to the authority at the

National Recycling Awards 2013 for its work to give old bikes a new lease of life.

Since February 2012, around 125 bicycles have been collected at

Alkerton Household Waste Recycling Centre. The bikes are put aside and collected by staff at the Banbury Early Intervention Hub.

Young people are then given the

opportunity to learn from qualified bike mechanics how to completely strip a bicycle down, repair parts and re-build the bike to a roadworthy standard to sell afterwards.

InBRIEF

Hunt for raiders

■ **THREE** thieves broke into Martin's cigarettes, Banbury, to steal cigarettes, Lottery scratch cards and cash. The gang broke in through the back of the shop at about 1.15am on Sunday, July, and escaped down Orchard Way, towards the Warwick Road. One was said to be wearing a white baseball cap, a black Adidas jacket, black trousers and black and white trainers. A second man was wearing a light-coloured top with blue jeans, black gloves and a brown beanie hat, and the third was in a dark hoodie with black bottoms and white gloves. Police have asked anyone with information to call them on 101.

Lecturer walks free in child sex pictures case

■ 57-year-old father of three gets 20-month suspended sentence

A FORMER senior law lecturer used his office computer to download thousands of indecent pictures of children.

Nicholas Goddard, formerly of Church Road, Chipping Norton, avoided jail after his defence barrister said he had fallen "to a level he never thought he would be reduced to in his life".

The 57-year-old father-of-three admitted 11 counts of possessing, and one count of distributing, indecent images of children between 2008 and 2012.

Cathy Olliver, prosecuting, told a judge in Oxford Crown Court last week that he was caught after officers from Thames Valley Police's specialist online team found him communicating with known paedophiles.

She said that in February 2012, he was arrested and confessed to using his work computer to download pictures of children, share them online, and discuss them with other adults.

Officers found a total of 3,699 images and videos stored on his

By Joe Nimmo

computer, a USB stick and a hard drive, including 295 which showed children being abused.

Lucy Tapper, defending, said Goddard had already taken a sex offenders' course run by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation.

She said: "He is a man who has been stripped down to his absolute core and reduced to a level he never thought he would be reduced to in his life."

"In my submission, this case is not about punishment, but rehabilitation."

Judge Ian Pringle told Goddard, who had no previous convictions, that for most of his life he had been a "pillar of the community".

He added: "But you had a secret. And your secret was that you were becoming increasingly fascinated by images of children."

"Anyone who has had the misfortune of having to look at those images, knows the appalling nature of them."

He sentenced Goddard to 20 months in prison, suspended for two years, with a two-year sex offender treatment course.

Judge Pringle also made the defendant subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order and ordered him to pay £340 costs.

Investigating officer Simon Beaton said: "We never lose sight that each individual image depicts a child being abused."

"Looking for the image, storing it and sharing it is part of the story of the abuse of these children."

"Our message to those people engaged in this activity is simple, we will trace you and bring you to justice."



Nicholas Goddard

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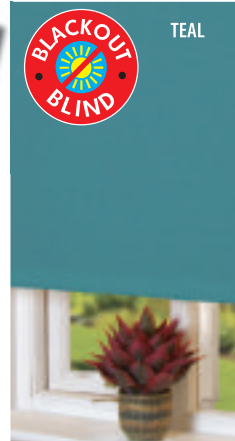


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Bringing Change Home

Charity reveals what the county's cash buys

THE county's British Heart Foundation shops last year raised almost £300,000 – to pay for lifesaving equipment, vital research and six nurses.

The charity said it was delighted that donations and sales, together with volunteering, helped the foundation raise so much.

The £294,000 had helped pay for six heart nurses at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, 44 defibrillators and 76 research projects in Oxfordshire.

Among those who are being supported by the cash is Dr Carolyn Carr, who is working on a three-year project looking at stem cells to repair hearts damaged by attacks and disease.

Dr Carr said: "We wouldn't be able to do this, if not for the donations."

"Without the shops raising money, it would be so much harder to instigate research."

She added: "Heart failure is the leading cause of mortality. "All the drug therapies help the heart to keep going, but they don't repair damage from a heart attack."

By Emma Harrison

"Stem cells are going to revolutionise the treatment of heart failure."

Funding has also gone to professor Sir Rory Collins, who runs large-scale studies into the causes, prevention and treatment of heart and circulatory problems.

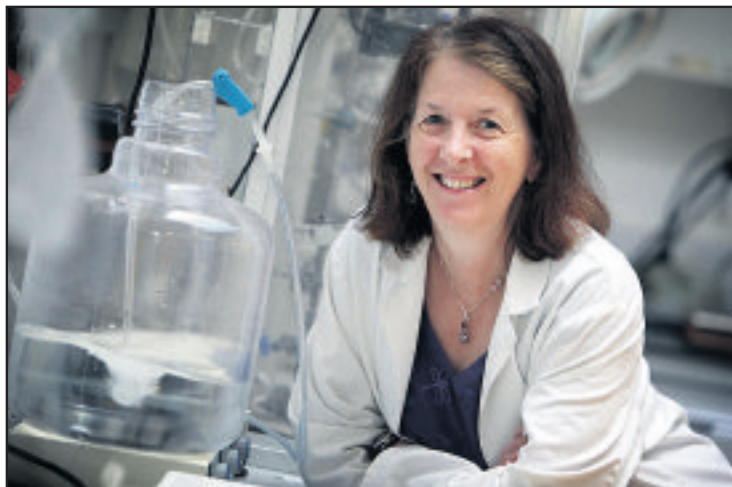
Meanwhile, charity finance helps Professor Shoumo Bhattacharya to investigate the importance of genetic and environmental factors in congenital heart disease and heart failure.

About 600 people die from coronary heart disease in the county each year, a BHF spokeswoman said.

The defibrillators have been given to a whole range of clinics, organisations and hospitals.

British Heart Foundation area manager Margaret Richardson said: "The generosity of people in Oxfordshire has been astonishing. We want to thank every single person who has joined us in the fight against heart disease."

"Quite often, people don't realise that the sofa or dress that they donate to a British Heart Foundation Shop actually



British Heart Foundation-funded scientist Dr Carolyn Carr in her lab OX60500

raises vital funds and helps pay for anything from an echo-machine in their local hospital, to a community heart support group.

"We couldn't fund this lifesaving equipment or research in Oxfordshire if it wasn't for the help of the local community. We hope they are feeling

proud about the difference they are making and are inspired to keep visiting British Heart Foundation shops."

The charity has a furniture and electrical store in Banbury. Shops offer a free collection service that can be booked by calling 0844 334 1400 or visit bhf.org.uk/free

InBRIEF

Officer joins rural squad

■ A NEW police constable has joined the Banbury Rural Neighbourhood policing team. PC 5397 Kelly Roach spent her last three years working with the Bretch Hill team in west Banbury before moving to more the rural post.

Nominations

■ NOMINATIONS are being sought for this year's Cherwell Sports Awards. The Cherwell District Council awards cover 14 categories, including junior players, teams, volunteers and leaders. The event – in its third year – will take place on Saturday, September 14, at the Spiceball Leisure Centre, Banbury. Team GB Olympic volleyball player Rachel Laybourne will present the awards. Nominations can be made at cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Shop relaunch

■ TK Maxx, in Calthorpe Street, Banbury, will relaunch after a refurbishment on Saturday, August 3, at 10am. Store manager Carol Kinniburgh said: "To celebrate the relaunch, we're giving away £10 gift cards to the first 200 people through the door."

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Plaza Balti is a great place for family and friends to meet. From the moment you walk in you are greeted by friendly staff. This family run business prides itself on creating a relaxed atmosphere with the best level of customer service. They have won a National Curry Award for their

authentic cuisine and exceptional standard of service.

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Mad Cap offer up a feisty Kate

You don't have to like Shakespeare to like Mad Cap Theatre Production's latest show... but you're likely to by the end.

Tonight (Thursday) the company perform their *Taming of the Shrew* at The Mill in Banbury. Now halfway through the tour, the Worcestershire-based company has won rave reviews along the way.

"My strong belief is that if Shakespeare is done correctly an audience shouldn't leave feeling as if they did not understand the play," says Mad Cap artistic director Emma Leigh.

"For me also, I feel that too many productions recently have lost the humour of the relationship between Katherina and Petruchio and have focused on the misogyny, repression and in some cases physical abuse.

"We ultimately wanted to rectify that as while Petruchio comes across as a bully, modern audiences rarely realise that Katherina always gives as good as she gets, and they actually leave the play as equals, albeit accepting different roles."

Because Mad Cap works with multi-talented actors — those with

By Liz Nicholls

backgrounds in dance, stage combat, physical theatre, stand-up comedy and music — the show has garnered five-star ratings from critics for its fresh, exciting and understandable take on the Bard.

"You will not find any of our actors 'pontificating'," adds Emma.

"We approach it with an almost pantomimic view, making it fast paced, punchy, at times ludicrously funny and make his characters jump off the page and at our audiences!"

Emma says that, with *Taming of the Shrew* often considered Shakespeare's "difficult" play, it has been quite hard to overcome the idea that the plot — which involves stubborn Katherina becoming more obedient towards her suitor and also involves him meting out some fairly brutal treatment towards her (depending how seriously this is supposed to be taken) — is all about misogyny.

"The positives of Shakespeare's text is that it's all in the interpretation," explains Emma.

"Firstly, we've made it very, very

funny, making some of the characters larger than life — which also helps with the understanding of the language — and throwing in a few contemporary twists!

"We also wanted to make it very clear from the beginning that Katherina is a strong, independent woman who has a very valiant temper; and she and Petruchio both make concessions so that they learn to live together, fall in love, and accept different roles, just like any relationship."

MadCap's Katherina (Victoria Haynes) and Grumio (Isabella Paige) were born and brought up in Northampton, so Banbury's Mill seemed an ideal spot on the tour trail.

And in October MadCap return to the county with *Lizzy, Darcy and Jane* by Joanna Norland to celebrate the 200th anniversary of *Pride and Prejudice*.

■ MadCap Theatre Productions' *The Taming of the Shrew* arrives at The Mill Theatre, Spiceball Park, Banbury, tonight at 7.30pm. Tickets £12/£10. Call the box office on 01295 279002.

■ madcaptheatreproductions.co.uk



Katherina
(Victoria Haynes)
and Petruchio
(Daniel Garnham)

All aboard for Mikron's return

It's a model that has worked for 42 years and shows no sign of abating, but Mikron is still a novel concept by anyone's standards. And proving popular and as topical as always.

The canalboat which winds its way from Yorkshire and back every summer taking in 140 venues on the way, is due to hit Oxfordshire's riverbanks this week. Yes, the Mikron season is upon us and with it two new productions to enjoy over the next few months, starting Wednesday at The Oxford Science Park with *Beyond The Veil*, an

exploration of everything bee related, with a murder/mystery plot thrown in free.

"Bees are very similar to people — they are hard workers, have a tendency to be vicious, work best in groups and if they

don't the whole show collapses," says Mikron director Pete Toon.

Next up is *Don't Shoot the Messenger!*, a comical whistlestop history of the postal service, which is not only funny but coincidentally enormously topical. "It was inspired by a bloke in our village who tried to rob the post office," Pete says.

Mikron

- *Don't Shoot the Messenger* Tuesday: Waterfont Cafe, Benson
- *Beyond The Veil*, Wednesday 31 at The Oxford Science Park.
- In August, Mikron travels to Abingdon, Wolvercote Green, Eynsham, Thrupp, Kidlington, Enslow Bridge, North Aston, Aynho, Adderbury and Cropredy.
- Visit mikron.org.uk

Mikron also has a loyal audience, and non-theatre-going crowd.

"So many people who watch us in beer gardens come up and say: 'we don't like theatre but we liked that,'" Pete says.



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ENJOY AND SHARE LIFE Attractive, divorced Melksham lady, 45, 5'5", average-build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a tactful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138266 or send a text to 80360

QUALITY TIMES Sunny, loving, divorced, loyal Swindon girl, 46, 5'2", average-build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a tactful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116

TRY AND SEE Fun, blue-eyed Witney girl, 46, active and easygoing, enjoys swimming and keep fit, searching for a kind, caring and genuine guy, to share loving times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144409 or send a text to 80360

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 47, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes cafes, music, 47, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125828 or send a text to 80360

I NEED A HERO Charming, positive Trowbridge female, 47, 5'4", average-build, fun-loving, likes balance and harmony in her life, searching and looking for that special guy. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145473 or send a text to 80360

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LOOKING FOR MR RIGHT Attractive, fun, easygoing Cotswold female, 51, 5'7", enjoys swimming and staying active, would like to meet an honest, caring male for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145546

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Real Ads



GOOD COMPANIONSHIP Happy-go-lucky Devizes female, 41, good sense of humour, looking for a reliable, caring man, for a long term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136646 or send a text to 80360

SEE ME SMILE Happy, quiet, caring and reliable Oxford lady, 42, 5'2", simply searching for a tactile, fun and gentle-natured gent, for friendship, lasting happiness and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 142441 or send a text to 80360

FOR STARTERS... Loving, caring Oxford male, 45, genuine, active, heart hair, green eyes, grown up children, Melksham lady, 45, 5'5", funny and kind, for friendship first. Let's see what happens. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114046

ENJOY AND SHARE LIFE Attractive, divorced Melksham lady, 45, 5'5", average-build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a tactful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138266 or send a text to 80360

QUALITY TIMES Sunny, loving, divorced, loyal Swindon girl, 46, 5'2", average-build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a tactful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116

TRY AND SEE Fun, blue-eyed Witney girl, 46, active and easygoing, enjoys swimming and keep fit, searching for a kind, caring and genuine guy, to share loving times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144409 or send a text to 80360

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 47, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes cafes, music, 47, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125828 or send a text to 80360

I NEED A HERO Charming, positive Trowbridge female, 47, 5'4", average-build, fun-loving, likes balance and harmony in her life, searching and looking for that special guy. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145473 or send a text to 80360

TOP OF THE CLASS Enthusiastic, cultured and vibrant Melksham woman, 49, 5'5", looking for an enthusiastic, fun-loving man, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138880 or send a text to 80360

SHARING THE GOOD TIMES Fun-loving, affectionate and interesting Swindon female, 50, searching for a fair, upbeat man, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115568

LOOKING FOR MR RIGHT Attractive, fun, easygoing Cotswold female, 51, 5'7", enjoys swimming and staying active, would like to meet an honest, caring male for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145546

STARTING DIVORCED Friendly, fun Oxfordshire living man, 52, 5'7", for love gain and children, looking to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135484

TO THE FUTURE Flexible, life-loving, optimistic, divorced Abingdon lady, 53, 5'7", non-smoker, wants to meet a feisty, adventurous gentleman, 44-54 for friendship, hopefully leading to committed relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135484

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HAVE YOUR CAKE Caring and confident Kenyan lady, 53, 5'9", would like to meet a warm and genuine man, for happy times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145300 or send a text to 80360

SOMEONE EXACTLY LIKE YOU Caring, lovely, bubbly Bicester lady, 54, looking for a tall, kind, caring and romantic man for a lasting loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118921 or send a text to 80360

I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT Sincere Swindon woman, 55, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 or send a text to 80360

THAT SPECIAL PERSON Honest, bubbly female, 56, kind, loving, seeks 6ft+ male, for romance, companionship & lots more. Bicester. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110670

FIRENDS First intelligent, attractive Wiltshire female, 57, widow, brunette, 5'2", likes radio 4, reading, travel, art galleries and gym, new to area and seeking a similar guy. GSOH, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124892 or send a text to 80360

QUALITY TIMES Sunny, loving, divorced, loyal Swindon girl, 46, 5'2", average-build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a tactful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116

TRY AND SEE Fun, blue-eyed Witney girl, 46, active and easygoing, enjoys swimming and keep fit, searching for a kind, caring and genuine guy, to share loving times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144409 or send a text to 80360

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TOP OF THE CLASS Enthusiastic, cultured and vibrant Melksham woman, 49, 5'5", looking for an enthusiastic, fun-loving man, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138880 or send a text to 80360

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LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 61, med build, 5'6", GSOH, N/S, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/S and caring for dates & more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161

LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU Smart, intelligent Swindon lady, 62, N/S, likes country & riverside strolls, atmospheric country pubs, gardening, 60s-70s music, would like to meet a gent, 62-68, 5'10", N/S for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143526 or send a text to 80360

LET'S ENJOY LIFE Vibrant, sincere Witney female, 63, loves meeting people, good conversations, going out & about, walks, theatre, looking for a similar chap, for companionship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 142189

COMPLETE THE PICTURE Attractive, honest Swindon lady, 65, 5'5", loves cinema, theatre, national trust, walks, would like to meet a tall, non-smoking gent, under 70 with a GSOH. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140415 or send a text to 80360

HONEST RELATIONSHIP Non-smoking Bradford lady, 66, 5'5", slim-build, blue-eyes with a positive outlook, enjoy countryside, dancing music, theatre, seeking a gent, 65-68, to enjoy similar interest. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128450 or send a text to 80360

DAYS OUT Sensitive, genuine, widowed Warminster female, 67, would like to meet an active, outgoing male, for friendship, days out together and laughter. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146185 or send a text to 80360

HIT THE JACKPOT Sincere Swindon lady, 77, enjoys dancing, pubs lunches, theatre and more, searching for a nice gent, with similar interests, for friendship and perhaps more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145190 or send a text to 80360

HONEST COMPANY Sought kind, caring Oxford female, 78, likes country drive, pub lunches, fishing, seeking a tall man, with a good sense of humour, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143588 or send a text to 80360

BLOSSOM WITH TLC Attractive Abingdon widow, 80, would like to meet a non-smoking, active gent, to enjoy days out and cosy times in. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 139676

SHARE SOME TIME Adaptable, upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 33, would like to find a warm, laid-back lady, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837

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FRIENDLY COMPANION Friendly Kidlington male, 35, 5'8", blue eyes, smoker, loves pubs meals and cosy times in, seeking a female, for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143121 or send a text to 80360

CARING & CONSIDERATE Kind-hearted, active Oxford man, 37, enjoys staying fit, playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female, for companionship and love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360

NOW OR NEVER Practical, affable and dependable Oxford male, 39, likes eating out at restaurants, swimming and cycling, seeking a truthful, intelligent, informed lady, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131282 or send a text to 80360

TIME TO SHARE Lively Oxford male, 39, 5'10", med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117959 or send a text to 80360

GOOD COMPANIONSHIP Confident, friendly Wantage male, 44, 6'4", green eyes, likes cooking, sports, cinema, looking to meet a black lady, 26-42, to enjoy good company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141512 or send a text to 80360

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LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 51, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-matured girl, to enjoy good times together. Is you're looking for true love then get in touch. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Hard-working Oxford male, 51, 5'7", brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice young lady for friendship leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing Wantage male, 51, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360

TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 52, with plenty of interests in life, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share love, laughter and the future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479

GOOD NATURED Upbeat Bicester male, 52, 5'10", brown hair, medium build, looking for an attractive, black lady, for friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140492 or send a text to 80360

PURE KINDNESS Blue-eyed Bicester male, 52, 5'10", own home, self-employed, searching for a loving African woman, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144560 or send a text to 80360

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 53, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 60, 5'6", slim build, self-employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140930 or send a text to 80360

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Fairly fit Banbury man, 61, 5'11", fair-hair, blue-eyes, works as electrician, looking for a nice lady around the same age, for friendship possibly leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123384

SO GOOD TOGETHER Genuine, easygoing/happy Abingdon male, 62, own home/car, enjoys dancing, days out and walking the dog, searching for a genuine lady, with an attractive and happy nature. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466085

COME CLOSER Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 46, 6'3", looking for a fun and insightful, liberal woman, to find and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130800

LOTS TO OFFER Smart, curious and constructive Oxford male, 46, 6'2", would like to meet an interesting, active girl, to build a lasting, happy future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146182 or send a text to 80360

FUN AND ADVENTURE Professional, caring male, 46, 5'9", N/S, own home and car, enjoys days out to the seaside, seeking young-at-heart, honest lady, to spend quality time with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146399 or send a text to 80360

THE LIFE OF THE PARTY Shy yet sincere Banbury male, 47, would like to meet an honest, bubbly, faithful woman, for loving times and to share a happy future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145482 or send a text to 80360

HAPPY SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring, down-to-earth Thame male, 47, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427 or send a text to 80360

LOTS TO GIVE Easygoing, reliable, loyal Banbury male, 48, 5'7", divorcee, varied interests and enjoys the outdoor life, looking for someone, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143400 or send a text to 80360

JUST HAVE FUN Affectionate, warm-hearted Banbury male, 49, would like to meet fun, bright female to enjoy each others company and share laughter and good times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145726 or send a text to 80360

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 51, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-matured girl, to enjoy good times together. Is you're looking for true love then get in touch. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894

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DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 60, 5'6", slim build, self-employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140930 or send a text to 80360

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Fairly fit Banbury man, 61, 5'11", fair-hair, blue-eyes, works as electrician, looking for a nice lady around the same age, for friendship possibly leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123384

LIVE FOR THE MOMENT Sincere Banbury male, 56, 5'10", hard working, into DIY, walks and alternative therapies, now searching for an open and honest woman, for loving times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144938 or send a text to 80360

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widower, 58, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

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PASSION FLOWER Youthful, friendly Oxford chap, 59, 5'9", dark hair, enjoys cinema, bowling, active days out and socialising, searching for a loving, happy and loyal woman, to build a lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

CARING NATURE Dependable, informed and responsible Witney man, 59, 6'3", looking for a helpful, decent woman, to share a brighter future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111595

PERFECT TOGETHER Hard-working Oxfordshire male, 60, 6ft, widower, greying hair, smart, likes most things in life, now searching for an equally honest and genuine woman, to share love, life and true happiness. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 142767 or send a text to 80360

JUST AN ORDINARY GUY Kind-hearted, considerate and loving Didcot man, 67, 6'6", intuitive lady, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 456285

A FRIEND INDEED Semi-retired Oxford male, 67, 6', slim-build, likes playing bowls, home life, seeking an easygoing female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137812

MORE THAN WORDS Solvent, articulate, retired North Oxfordshire gent, 67, 5'9", own home and car, with a love of theatre, travel, motorsport and more, seeks an elegant, feminine woman, for friendship and love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140

SEE FOR YOURSELF Youthful, faithful, liberal and sympathetic Middlesbrough man, 72, looking for a sweet, sensitive woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502 or send a text to 80360

SOUL TO SOUL Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 78, likes to drink sometimes, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving, lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 47, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817

Gripping film that sends ice through your veins

THE FROZEN GROUND (15, 105 mins) Thriller/Action. Nicolas Cage, John Cusack, Vanessa Hudgens, Radha Mitchell, Dean Norris, 50 Cent, Kevin Dunn. Director: Scott Walker.

The most gripping crime dramas are often revealed in the minutiae and onerous procedures of police work.

No screeching car chases or last-gasp races against time to unmask the least likely suspect as a killer – but instead, quiet, intense hours in which dedicated men and women fight exhaustion and self-doubt to pore over towering files of evidence, looking for one gossamer-thin link to break the case wide open.

Set in 1983 Alaska, *The Frozen Ground* obasts several engrossing sequences of police searching in vain for the physical evidence to convict a mild-mannered baker for heinous crimes against vulnerable women.

It's certainly a slow burn and writer-director Scott Walker is in no hurry to draw his debut feature to a nail-biting conclusion.

Based on the real-life hunt for serial killer Robert Hansen, *The Frozen Ground* celebrates the tenacity of one cop, who jeopardises his career and even risks his marriage to follow his gut instinct.

Detective Jack Halcombe (Nicolas Cage) is preparing to leave

Anchorage with his wife, Allie (Radha Mitchell), and children, when he receives a call that the body of a young woman has been found in the icy wilderness.

The autopsy results are harrowing and suggest possible links with other missing women.

Soon after, Jack receives a file on Cindy Paulson (Vanessa Hudgens), a 17-year-old prostitute, who claims that she escaped from the clutches of Robert Hansen (John Cusack), who held her hostage in his basement den and raped her.

Jack interviews Cindy and is moved by her tearful testimony, his interest piqued when the young woman reveals: "He said there were seven girls before me and I was lucky because they usually stay for a week."

Convinced that Hansen is a dangerous serial killer, Jack works tirelessly to build a case against his prime suspect, aided by Sergeant Lyle Haugsvan (Dean Norris).

However, there is no physical evidence and Hansen is a well respected member of the community.

So, if Jack's hunch is wrong, the consequences for the police department could be grave.

The Frozen Ground is a solid genre piece, which embraces hoary archetypes: the grizzled cop close to retirement, the working girl who has been abused by the system, the family man with a sadistic streak.

The plot gathers a slow, steady



Film still from *The Frozen Ground*, picturing Nicolas Cage as Jack Halcombe

Picture: PA Photo/Organic

momentum, building to the inevitable final showdown between Jack and his cunning adversary.

Cage is unusually subdued, almost sleepwalking through some scenes, but Hudgens continues to impress in her transition from wholesome Disney Channel princess to gritty actress and Cusack is suitably menacing.

The stark sub-zero locales send a similar chill down the spine.

CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY: The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Vin Garbutt – singer and songwriter. £12. 8pm. 01295 279002.

SATURDAY: The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Purple Zeppelin – tribute to Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin. Standing event. £10 adv, £12 on door. 7.30pm. 01295 279002.

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:

Jul 25, *The Taming of The Shrew*. Funny, fast-paced Shakespeare combining text with song, dance and physical theatre, from Madcap Theatre Productions. £12, conc £10. 7.30pm.

Jul 26, *My Brother The Robot*. Presented by Tall Stories. £6, family ticket £22 (4 tickets). 11.30am and 2pm.

Jul 30, *There is a Monster in my Piano*. The Piano Doctor looks inside the piano to find the musical notes running away. Presented by Garlic Theatre Company. £6, family ticket £22 (4 tickets). 2pm. Box office: 01295 279002.

The Theatre, Spring Street,

Chipping Norton:

Jul 30, *Orange Hat Summer Adventure*. Enjoy the summer holidays with Peggotty the Hen and her other puppet friends as they embark on an interactive performance. Includes tea/coffee for carers. Tickets: Children £8.50. 11am-noon.

Box office: 01608 642350.

Killingworth Castle, Glympton Road, Wootton by Woodstock:

Jul 28, *The Social Presents The Comedy Lounge*. Laugh away Sunday night blues, as MC Eleanor Conway introduces some top comedy talent. Free. 8pm. Box office: 01993 811401.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford:

Until Jul 27, *Save The Last Dance For Me*. An all new rock 'n' roll musical featuring the music and magic of the early 1960s. 7.30pm, matinee Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £10-£35.

Box office: 0844 871 3020

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford:

Until Jul 27, *James and the Giant Peach*, by Roald Dahl. Presented by Birmingham Stage Company. Fri, 2pm and 7pm, Sat, 10.30am

and 2pm. £9.50-£16.

Jul 29-Aug 3, *The Pitmen Painters*, by Lee Hall. A Live Theatre Newcastle and National Theatre co-production. Mon-Thu and Sat 7.30pm, Fri 8pm, mats Thu and Sat 2.30pm. £12.50-£28. Post-show talk Wed. £12.50-£28. Box office: 01865 305305.

Events

FRIDAY: Holiday entertainment: Blenheim Palace, Park Street, Woodstock. Family activities July 26-Aug 31. Enjoy costumed entertainment 'Servants tales of the past' with maid Dusty Chambers – a humorous perspective into a servant's life. Children's entertainment daily in the Pleasure Gardens until Aug 31. Giant Marlborough Maze, Adventure Play Area and butterfly house. Daily, 10.30am-4.30pm. Admission £13 (conc £10, child £6.50 (family £35). 01993 811091.

SATURDAY: Walk (Fieldpaths): Start New Street Car Park Chipping Norton. 10am. SP312270 five miles to Salford and Over Norton. Pubs/cafes in the town afterwards. 01865 766407.

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SCORECARD

BANBURY

L Sabin lbw Mehta	15
C Haupt b Qayyum	102
R West lbw Mehta	0
N Hawkes c Chavda b Wynne	61
J Cater lbw Johnston	17
I Tew c Stewart b Qayyum	0
L Ryan c Stewart b Qayyum	1
A Blanchard c Snell b Johnston	2
B Barends b Wynne	12
O Wright lbw Qayyum	0
J Phillips not out	3
Extras	12
Total (all out, 55.3 ovs)	215
Fall: 1-19, 2-19, 3-107, 4-152, 5-152, 6-153, 7-161, 8-211, 9-212.	
Bowling: Johnston 14-3-65-3, Mehta 15-3-54-2, Wynne 16-6-46-2, Qayyum 10-3-2-45-3.	

NORTH MYMMS

H Qayyum c Ryan b Barends	13
A Lewis lbw Blanchard	9
S Snell c Sabin b Phillips	82
N Jayaratnam lbw Barends	0
R Carter run out	42
C Stewart c Barends b West	28
R Wynne not out	5
J Johnston c Sabin b West	2
J Mehta lbw Ryan	1
S Chavda c Haupt b Ryan	0
J Bryceand c Haupt b West	0
Extras	8
Total (all out, 54.2 ovs)	190
Fall: 1-22, 2-22, 3-22, 4-121, 5-178, 6-184, 7-186, 8-187, 9-189.	
Bowling: Barends 13-5-51-2, Blanchard 7-1-24-1, Wright 5-1-26-0, Ryan 15-4-50-2, West 10-2-2-24-3, Phillips 4-0-7-1.	
Banbury 25pts, North Mymms 6	

Drama as Banbury spin way to victory

BANBURY snatched a dramatic 25-run victory from the jaws of defeat in their Division 1 match at home to North Mymms on Saturday.

The hosts, having been bowled out for 215, were staring down the gun barrel, as their opponents cruised to 178-4.

With plenty of time left, they needed 38 for victory with six wickets left.

But once their top-scorer Stephen Snell had been dismissed by Jimmy Phillips for 82, the innings collapsed.

In all, their last six wickets fell for 12 runs as they slumped to 190 all out.

Phillips had promptly taken himself off after his key bowling, and the game was done by fellow spinners (2-50) and Richard West (3-24), who took the last

three wickets between them. Earlier, Banbury's innings had been dominated by two players – Craig Haupt and Nathan Hawkes – after they had chosen to bat first.

Two wickets from Jigar Mehta had reduced the hosts to 19-2.

Haupt and Hawkes then added a rapid 88 for the third wicket.

Hawkes was the dominant partner, striking one six and 11 fours in his 52-ball stay before falling for 61.

However, Haupt batted almost throughout the innings, before being ninth out for 102, made from 169 balls with 18 fours.

No great support came from the other end, and their total of 215 seemed vulnerable – until North Mymms faltered in sight of victory.


HOW THEY STAND

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	A	B	Pts
Henley	11	8	2	0	1	13	225
Tring Pk	11	5	4	2	0	34	170
Slough	11	5	2	4	0	37	168
Harpندن	11	5	1	4	1	34	168
Banbury	11	5	1	4	1	32	166
H Wycombe	11	3	0	6	2	32	119
*Potters Bar	11	3	2	5	1	35	117
*Welwyn GC	11	2	3	5	1	46	110
*N Mymms	11	2	3	5	2	43	110
Burnham	11	2	3	5	1	45	110
*points deducted							



Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times




ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Try to stay out of trouble this week if you can Aries. Mars is trying to push you into arguments which can only leave you looking and feeling the fool. Stick to facts, not fiction, and you can build a firmer foundation for your love life. You'll have to agree, it's about time you asked for what and who you want, just as it's about time you asked for what they are. Ring now for courage.

0906 585 4360



LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Love and hate come close together, which is why it's so important that you don't say or do anything you may come to regret. Listen to their side of the story this weekend. There is much about them you have to learn and which can bring you closer together. A last minute party invite aided by Venus changes your view on what you want from your future. Ring now for the finer details.

0906 585 4366



TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Make sure you behave in business this week when it's going to be all too easy for you to stir up trouble, just to get a reaction. Someone has said something which has upset you and the sooner you face them, instead of addressing third parties, the sooner you will be able to move on from what occurred. Give me a call now to hear why this is the perfect week for committing to holiday plans.

0906 585 4361



SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

The home body needs your attention and, for someone who can be quite a home body when they want to be, it's somewhat of a shock to friends how much of a rebel you've become. From Tuesday you find a happy medium and you also learn that you have a new admirer who's willing to change anything to fit in with you. Ring now to hear what and who I see for your future.

0906 585 4367



GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

We can't help but fall out with our close ones sometimes. Recent upsets have affected you more than you're letting on. Use Sunday for peace talks when you can be sure that you'll have the communication skills of Mercury to help you both find common ground. Money spent on the home hurts, but will save you a small fortune later my friend. Call now so I can reveal all.

0906 585 4362



SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Financial matters are getting out of hand and just as you've managed to work out where you're spending too much of your time and you're also working out who it is that is responsible for parking you and your cash. You're no longer frightened to say goodbye to the bad influences in your life as you refuse to suffer fools gladly. Call now to hear how business and fun will mix this week.

0906 585 4368



CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Waiting for results of some sort is driving you crazy and you would be well advised to fill your time with relaxing and mixing with friends who can take your mind off your worries. Have confidence in your abilities. I can see from your stars that your life is headed in a better direction than you'd dared dream. Ring now to hear how media links boost your career this year.

0906 585 4363



CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

New hobbies start to take up much more of your time and you start to realise that you can, and should, have fun in life. A past influence can no longer hurt you and although it's taken you a long time to realise this, it will only take you a matter of days to use your freedom dramatically. Good times call and you're ready to be to your own. Ring now to hear what Mars adds to the drama.

0906 585 4369



LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Other people's arrangements clash with your own and so you may have trouble trying to please everyone this week. A lot of the signs are acting somewhat selfishly, so make your own plans without them if you are not getting the reaction you had hoped for. Romance progresses but could push you to say more than you're ready for. Ring now to hear how Mars brings luck financially.

0906 585 4364



AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

Problems in the family are getting out of hand and it's vital that you try to avoid getting involved in any disputes as you won't get to know all of the facts until Thursday or Friday. Unexpected gifts or packages give you reason to have more faith in what close ones are planning to commit to. Older faces prove demanding, but not if you listen and help them with their needs. Call now to hear more.

0906 585 4370



VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Group arrangements go well this week and you've at last learned to work as part of a team rather than trying to cope with everything on your own. Money you were hoping to receive needs to be chased up Wednesday if you are to avoid disappointment. Pregnancies and births bring surprise as you see how quickly other signs have moved on with their lives. Ring now for a full reading.

0906 585 4365



PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Try to stick to arrangements you've made for this week as others have gone out of their way to accommodate you. Lies you've told come back on you but can be forgiven and moved on from if you're willing to hold your hands up and make apologies where they're necessary. Unexpected visitors or callers bring news which alters your plans for the future. Ring now to hear about tomorrow today.

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1 ARTICLES FOR SALE

2 PETS

3 SERVICES

4 BUSINESS

5 ENTERTAINMENTS

6 HOLIDAYS

7 EDUCATION

8 PUBLIC NOTICES

9 RECRUITMENT

10 MOTORS

11 PROPERTY

Family ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays



Happy Birthday

Leighan Adams
24th July

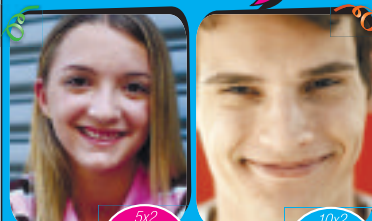
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Kimberley

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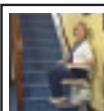
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07743 447425

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Audi targets the young at heart

By David Duffy

A TOUCH of a button sends a large colour display screen gliding silently out of the top of the Audi A3's dashboard.

The crystal-clear screen in the top-of-range S line specification displays everything from radio and iPod information, to satellite navigation instructions and mobile phone controls. It is a classy touch to a thoroughly upmarket car.

The three-door A3 model, priced from about £19,250, might be a compact hatchback, but it has all the build quality, style and executive feel of a much larger vehicle.

The car is squarely aimed at young-at-heart motorists and those downsizing drivers who want a smaller car that retains the high-quality workmanship seen in bigger cars. So the heated front seats are trimmed in a luxurious blend of cloth and leather, instrumentation has tasteful chrome trim and the whole cabin exudes an air of bomb-proof quality.

This is clearly a car built by people who care passionately about what they are doing.

Audi's passion in motoring extends way beyond the fit and finish of their cars, with handling and performance a vital part of the brand, underlined by its recent success in sports car racing around the

world. So even though the A3 is a car destined for the school run, shopping trips and battling with rush-hour queues, Audi has provided the latest technology to let you enjoy those moments when you escape the constraints of mundane motoring.

Taut, responsive and smooth-riding, higher specification models are fitted with the Audi drive select adaptive dynamics system, that at the touch of a button allows the driver to electronically select from five modes which dictate the car's driving characteristics — comfort, auto, dynamic, efficiency and individual. They influence the weighting of the steering, the sensitivity of the throttle pedal, the shift points of the S tronic transmission if this is fitted and the settings used by the optional adaptive cruise control system.

Three specification levels — SE, Sport and S line — are available in the UK, all including alloy wheels,



EXECUTIVE AIR: The Audi A3 is a compact hatchback with the build quality, style and feel of a much larger car

air conditioning or climate control, radio with electrically-folding screen, iPod connection, Bluetooth interface and navigation preparation.

Options range from radar-assisted adaptive cruise control, blind spot monitoring and speed limit detection to a system that links the car to the Internet.

And if you are feeling particularly lazy, the optional £835 electronic parking system will even slot your car automatically into the tightest of parking spaces. All at the touch of a button.

Auto facts

Model: Audi A3 1.6 TDI S line
Price: £22,885
Insurance group: 16 (1-50)
Fuel consumption (Combined): 74.3mpg
Top speed: 121mph
Length: 423.7cm/166.8in
Width: 177.7cm/70in
Luggage capacity: 12.9 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 11 gallons/50 litres
CO₂ emissions: 99g/km
Warranty: 3 years/60,000 miles

Newcartechnology

Computer eases electric car breakdown fear

THINK of Continental and what comes to mind? Tyres, obviously, but what else? Maybe the old advert with the BMW on the rooftop, or maybe football — after all, Continental sponsors a lot of European competitions. But when you jump into your car, very few people will have any idea just how much of its internal bits and pieces are actually made by Continental. Braking systems, large colour touch-screen interfaces, stability control units — Continental makes all of them as raw functional units that

manufacturers buy in bulk before adapting them to suit their branding, software and fitment specifics. One of the main areas the company works in is future digital displays for cars, with a major branch looking at systems for electric cars. Continental has developed a central control unit as part of an initiative called Simplify your Drive. The unit sits on an electric car's centre console. Essentially it links to all the car's electronic systems and adds a sophisticated new forward-thinking range calculator to

really minimise the chances of running out of electricity. Using a route planned into a satellite navigation system, the new Continental system accesses topography and road network data to assess how efficiently the car will be able to make it along the route based on your driving style. But that's not where it stops. If the system calculates that there is not enough electricity to make it to the journey's end, the driver is given a list of options in plenty of time to help avoid an embarrassing breakdown miles from home.

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■ THE new Golf Estate has been revealed, boasting about 60% more boot space than the latest hatchback despite an identical wheelbase. The luggage area, measured only in the boot itself up to the back seats and load cover, has been boosted from the hatchback's 380 litres to an enormous 605 litres. This Mk VII model signals a big increase from the Mk VI, which had 505 litres at its disposal. With the seats down, the maximum load volume is 1,620 litres, up from 1,495 litres in the old model.

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